# King Probers Told to Expect 'Blockbusters'

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1977

By TIM WYNGAARD
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, of the House Assassinations Committee has informed panel members to expect "blockbuster" developments in the investigation of the killing of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Committee members said Stokes told them the committee's investigating staff has developed "startling" information about the slaying of the civil rights leader in 1968. They said Stokes promised them a full briefing by the middle of next month.

The committee's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been scaled down and the panel's professional staff apparently has been spending virtually all its time exploring new leads in the King case.

Sources said Stokes has moved the headquarters for that investigation to St. Louis from Washington to lessen national media attention and to allow the staff to spend all the time it needs in Memphis.

In addition, the sources said, Stokes has told them the King investigators turned up "more than 100" witnesses who never have been interviewed by police officials. The probe has taken congressional investigators to Canada to pursue possible leads there as well, the sources said.

Word that new information is forthcoming, based on partial briefings of committee members by Stokes in recent days, is the first indication of any progress in the investigations.

Last August, after the committee was wracked by feuds between members and staff aides, Stokes slammed a tight secrecy seal on its work and hired Cornell University Law School Prof. G. Robert Blakey as new staff director.

To prevent leaks, only Stokes is being fully briefed by Blakey's staff on progress of the investigation, and Stokes is passing along part of the information to committee members. But Stokes promised the committee a full staff report by mid-November.

Some work is continuing in the Kennedy case, primarily on possible links between Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and right-wing Cubans, according to the sources.

But primary attention is being devoted to the King matter "because the trail is a lot fresher there" and because early investigative work apparently has been more productive, according to the committee members.

Of the new witnesses in the King probe, about 60 are considered to be of little use, the sources quote Stokes as reporting. But the remaining 40 or more have turned over some "significant" information, according to those reports.

The Canadian end of the investigation centers on convicted King assassin James Earl Ray's claim that he was recruited there by a mysterious man whom he knew only as "Raoul" to take part in a gun and drug-smuggling plan. Instead he was framed for the King killing, Ray claims.